

The Fall Care of Lawns

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THE time is now approaching when those who have the care of lawns and grass plots in their charge, must consider what is to be done to make them perfect for another season. As the summer is drawing to a close we must examine the grass, and make ourselves acquainted with its conditions and faults.

In the first place, be careful about weeds. Have all noxious and gross-growing weeds eradicated. Hand weeding will be best, by going on one's knees with a knife and cutting them out by the root. When this is done fill the holes with fine earth, and drop a pinch of seed on top, and make firm with your foot or a spade. When this work is completed, roll it well, and make it solid.

TREATMENT OF SMALL PLOTS

To those who have limited space, and less soil at their command, care should be taken to save every little refuse that will turn into mould or manure. The grass which you cut from your lawns during the summer, and placed in a corner, will help. The edgings and the sweepings and the leaves from the shade trees will help also. The domestic soot gathered from the stove flues makes a fine top dressing, and the wood ashes made during the summer months will, when blended together, make a fine compost for the small lawn. This should be applied in the spring, after the frost has left the ground, and should be put on in as fine a condition as possible, spreading it evenly, and raking off any large or stony substance. Be sure and fill any small holes previously overlooked. Should the lawn be generally uneven, it will be wise to have the turf lifted, and the ground underneath levelled. Make smooth before placing the turf back again. When once a lawn is relaid, whether in the fall or in the spring, be sure and roll well.

For my part, I would re-lay all my grass in the fall, say, the end of September, or the beginning of October. By doing it in the fall, nature assists us, as we have the rain in abundance to help the new-laid grass to make sufficient roots to support itself during the coming winter.

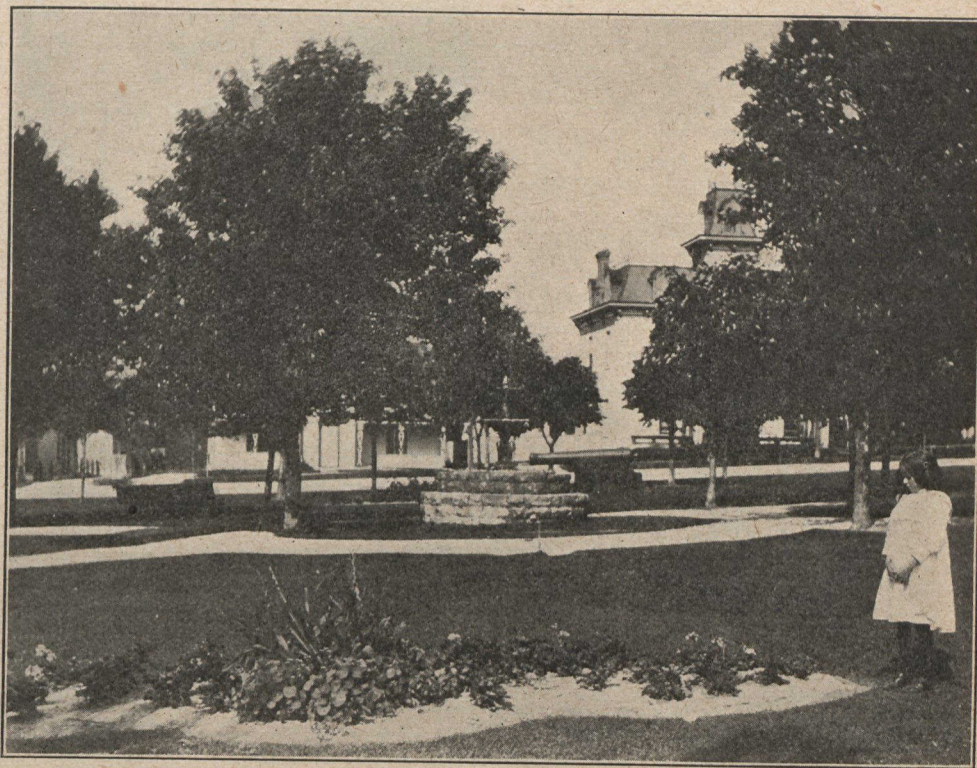
TOP DRESSING IN SPRING

Where the grass is in good condition, a simple top dressing of manure will be of great advantage in the spring, in assisting the grass to take in fresh food when assisted by the rain, the salts and ammonia being worked in to the roots, leaving the solid matter on the surface to be raked and swept off.

When contemplating making an en-

tirely new lawn, care and consideration must be given to the project in hand. Not merely sowing of grass seed, and laying new turf, is sufficient. The land should be prepared in the fall. The

lightly, and then any bare patches can be seeded. These should be made good at once. Scratch with a sharp-pointed rake and sow thickly with grass seed, and sprinkle with some fine soil. Roll



Victoria Park, Kincardine, Ontario, under care of Local Horticultural Society

drainage must be in good order. If it is naturally drained so that no surface water remains on top after a storm, all well and good; but, if it is wet and soggy, put a course of drain pipes in so as to ensure a good drainage, and a dry bottom. It will be more trouble, but it will pay in the long run. A good, green sward will be the reward of your labors.

VALUE OF FALL PREPARATION

By preparing the land in the fall, it will have time to settle, and in the spring any little indentations can be made good and levelled. The surface ground will then be in a fine, friable condition to be worked at with ease, and will be fit for the laying of the turf, or for the sowing of the seed.

LAYING SOD

The former way is the quickest and the best, as the "turf" is there at once. When the sod is laid, keep the hose-pipe going judiciously, not too much, but sufficient to keep the grass moist. The roller must be used often and well to ensure levelness and solidity. Lay the sod as early as possible, consistent with the weather.

When the turf has taken root, mow

in a day or so. Be careful when mowing to have the knives raised high for the first fortnight, so as not to pull up the new grass, or destroy that which was sown.

Winter Protection for Roses

C. Craig, Ottawa

The best method of winter protection for roses is a question which has been much discussed by rose growers. From my experience, the most satisfactory way is to lay each plant down and tie it to a stake driven in the ground, afterwards covering with leaves or rough litter to the depth of six to nine inches. In this way, I have never failed to bring through all the varieties I shall mention in this paper.

Great care must be taken in the spring as to the right time to uncover and prune the bushes. If the sap is allowed to run freely before uncovering, there is danger of the bark shrivelling and drying up. The plants must be kept as dormant as possible until all danger of severe frost is past, which should be from the middle of April to the first of May in this locality.